

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVI NO. 21 USPS 182-860 KENANSVILLE, NC 28349 MAY 27, 1982 20 PAGES THIS WEEK 10 CENTS PLUS TAX

5 Named To Serve On Albertson Water Board

Five people were appointed to the advisory board of the newly-formed Albertson Water District by the Duplin County Board of Commissioners last week. Appointed were Ann Herring, Sandra Waters, Eugene Smith, Aaron Smith and James Parker Sr. The advisory board will review questions pertaining

to the township water district and make recommendations to the commissioners for action. The county board will remain the water district's governing body. The northern Duplin water district was organized earlier this year to plan a water distribution system for Albertson Township. Such a water system would be de-

signed to pay its own way. However, if the system is built and fails to break even, district residents can be taxed to make up the difference. Bob Pittman, an engineer with Rivers & Associates of Raleigh, is determining financial possibilities for the proposed system. Pittman will report on financing de-

velopments at the board's June 7 meeting. Brice Sanderson, county building inspector, reported his department made 217 inspections during April. He said permits were issued for 11 new dwellings in April compared with two in January, four in February and six in March. Sanderson said 37 permits were issued for mobile homes.

The board revised the new county cable television ordinance to comply with the franchise agreement of Univision Cable Television at the request of Gail Bailey of the firm. The ordinance had specified 100 percent of the homes in the county would be served in two years; the franchise called for 80 percent, a figure agreed to by the board and the company.



FFA MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS - Several James Kenan FFA members were honored with awards for accomplishment in areas other than agricultural events. They are: l-r, seated - Francis Rhodes, 3rd place Sweetheart Contest and Leadership; Ann Bordeaux, 1st place Sweetheart Contest; and Karen Byrd, 2nd place Sweetheart Contest. Row 2 - David Ezzell, Parliamentary Procedure; Denise Rhodes, Leadership; and James Miller, Parliamentary Procedure. Row 3 - Benny Batchelor, Chris Whitman, Steve Chestnutt and Bobby Benson, Parliamentary Procedure.

Duplin Mayors Hear Joint City-County Tax Proposals

By Sharon Overton, Staff Writer

In a meeting of the League of Municipalities Thursday night, Duplin mayors and administrators heard provisions of a program which has helped reduce the costs of local government in 40 counties by combining the tax collecting efforts of both the city and county.

Perry James III, assistant finance director for the city of Raleigh, presented a model of the joint tax agreement presently being used in Raleigh and Wake County. The contract, which has been in effect since 1962, states that the county is responsible for all billing and collection and that the city will pay a small fee per resident for these services.

James stated that under the new system, the city pays

less per person for the comprehensive county service than it previously would have spent on postage alone. The rate the city pays is determined using what James called a "piggyback" philosophy. The city is billed only for the incremental cost in including the municipality. Also, the debt to the county is usually repaid after the first collection.

Because county and city taxes are combined, resi-

dents receive only one bill. James has found that the county is actually better able to collect payments on these bills than the city. Last year in Wake County, 99% of the taxes levied were collected.

The joint plan is weakest in the control of personal property. However, with the cooperation of city assessors, James feels the county can alleviate the problem. Some cities are also opposed to the joint system because they feel they lose contact with

their citizens when they turn the tax-collecting duties over to the county.

James pointed out that if either party becomes dissatisfied with the agreement, they may terminate the contract by submitting written notice at least six months prior to expiration.

Ben Harrell, president of the Duplin County League of Municipalities, endorsed the Wake County plan, saying, "The combination of the city and county for tax

collection will be a must in the future. We have to exhaust all avenues in reducing government costs."

In further business, Harrell announced that a recent cable franchise meeting revealed that nine out of ten towns in the county are in support of cablevision.

Mayor Cording of Wallace said that Carolina Telephone will meet with the League sometime in July to discuss rising phone rates.

Warsaw Man Stabbed Friday Night

A domestic dispute in Warsaw Friday night left a man with a knife wound above his heart.

Detective Sgt. Gary Cook of the Warsaw Police De-

partment said Dora L. Gorham, 48, stabbed Laborn Gaston Morgan, 55, at about 6:30 p.m. at a home on West Best Street.

"She stabbed him with an 8-inch paring knife, right above the heart," Cook said.

Morgan was taken to Duplin General Hospital in Kenans-

ville where he remained in the intensive care unit late Friday night.

No charges have been filed pending a complaint by the victim.

New Center Opens Doors To Duplin Senior Citizens

By Sharon Overton,

The ceremonial ribbon cutting by Services to the Aged Director Walter L. Brown Wednesday marked the culmination of over a year of planning and construction on the new Duplin Senior Center in Kenansville.

The center is located on Seminary St. in what was once the county jail. Since 1974, however, Duplin County Services to the Aged has been operating in the building. In March of 1981, with the aid of a \$50,000

federal grant and over \$14,000 from the state and county, workers began to renovate the old building, adding an additional 2,300 square feet in order to accommodate the center.

Costs on the center were cut back wherever possible, with labor supplied by the county, James Sprunt Technical College and the Department of Corrections. Local merchants also made donations in the form of televisions, carpet and fur-

nishings. "The community has really supported us," said Brown. "For the amount we spent and with the donations we received, we feel we have a building worth well over \$100,000."

According to Ernest Messer, assistant secretary of the Division of Aging and guest speaker for the dedication ceremonies, the center's primary function will be to provide persons over 60 with an area for companion-

ship and information.

"This will be a center where benefits for senior citizens will be defended and proposed," said Messer.

Thirty-eight staff members will operate a program of activities including arts and crafts projects, movies, lectures, outings, tours and recreational activities. The center will also be the Kenansville site for the County Nutrition Program which serves hot, nutritious meals daily to elderly citi-

zens. The Senior Center will be open from 9-5, five days a week.

Brown's goal is to attract at least 40-50% of the 6,697 senior citizens living in Duplin County. He emphasizes that there are no restrictions or income criteria for participants other than they must be over 60 years old. Services and meals are provided free of charge; however, participants are given the opportunity to make a contribution if they are able.



RIBBON-CUTTING - Walter L. Brown, director of the Duplin County Senior Center, officially opened the new facilities in a ceremony last Wednesday. The center will operate five days a week, serving more than 6,000 Duplin senior citizens. Present for the

ribbon-cutting were: l-4, Margaret Blount, Aging Program coordinator; D.J. Fussell, county commissioner; Walter L. Brown; Calvin Turner, Chairman of the Duplin County Commissioners; Pat Prescott, former

Aging Program Coordinator for New Bern; William J. Costin Sr., county commissioner; and Carl Schlegelmann, Program Representative from the Division of Aging in Raleigh.

Petitions Call For Vote On Liquor Issue

Kenansville will hold the first liquor-by-the-drink referendum in Duplin County this summer if 25 percent of the town's registered voters sign petitions calling for the vote.

Duplin County Board of Elections records show 452 people registered to vote in Kenansville. The signatures of 113 registered voters will be required before a refer-

endum can be called. The petitions must be returned to the elections board for verification by early August.

If a referendum is called, it cannot be held within 60 days of the date of a primary or general election. The primary election is scheduled for June 29 and the general election for Nov. 2.

This, the last two days of August and Sept. 1 would

meet the 60-day requirement if such a referendum were called for this year.

The petitions call for the sale of mixed beverages in restaurants, hotels, private clubs or convention centers and for on-premise sales of malt beverages.

Two Kenansville restaurants could qualify for liquor-by-the-drink licenses if voters approve such sales.

Duplin Retains Teacher Pay Schedule

Duplin County vocational agriculture teachers will continue to be paid on a 12-month basis because of the resignation of one teacher, the Board of Education decided Wednesday night last week.

The board, faced with federal budget reductions, had decided to cut out the summer portion of the vocational agriculture program in county high schools to save the \$28,950 required to pay the six teachers for July and August. Most teachers are paid for 10 months, but the agricultural teachers have been paid for a full year.

The resignation of Charles Barnes, a Wallace-Rose Hill High School vocational agriculture teacher, paved the way for continuation of the 12-month schedule. The board decided to shift Earl Spell, one of two agricultural teachers at East Duplin High School, to Wallace-Rose Hill

and operate the agricultural curriculum with five instead of six teachers.

Declining enrollment at East Duplin made it possible for one teacher to handle the load there, the board was informed. An average of 65 students are enrolled in the agricultural program in each of the five schools offering the work.

The board also approved the establishment of a little league ball park at Chinqua-

pin Primary School. Vaden Sholar had asked the board for this approval May 4. He said the development would remain the property of the school system and would not interfere with school activities.

The board will meet once a month during June, July and August instead of its customary twice-a-month schedule. The next meeting will be at 8 p.m. June 8 at Charity Middle School, four miles east of Rose Hill.

Memorial Day Services In Warsaw

The American Legion will conduct Memorial Day services in honor of the nation's war dead at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 31st at Pinecrest Cemetery in Warsaw. Commander Robert L. West of Charles R. Gavin Post No. 127 announced. Chairman of this year's

observance is J.P. Johnson. He explained that this year's services will include the Memorial Day Prayer, an address by Earl Vaughan, pastor of the Warsaw Presbyterian Church, the placing of flags and/or flowers on the graves, and the sounding of Taps.